

Child Welfare Partners Committee
Meeting Notes
Thursday, February 9th 2012
1-3:00 p.m.
Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 2/Teleconference

Members in attendance: Doug Johnson, Mindy Norwood, Wendy Rickman, and Julie Allison

Members by phone: Evan Klenk, Brian Fox, Nola Aalberts, Gary Lippe, Cheryl Goodwin, Chris Secrist, and Jennifer Sievert

Members not in attendance: Jean Slaybaugh, Carol Gutchewsky, and Barb Gay

Observers in attendance: No observers in attendance.

Observers by phone: No observers by phone.

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to review identified objectives and provide status updates within the CWPC Strategic Plan, confirm membership terms, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

The CWPC recommended that Nola Aalberts serve a second term as a Non-Coalition member on this committee so her membership will now end on June 30, 2015. The Coalition recommended that Jennifer Sievert serve a second term on this committee so her membership will now end on June 30, 2015.

Cheryl Goodwin (Coalition) and Gary Lippe (DHS) are currently in their second term and not eligible for another term in succession; therefore, the Coalition will select another representative to serve the July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 term to replace Cheryl and Wendy Rickman will select a DHS member for the same term to replace Gary. The process has been initiated for the Coalition selection although no deadline has been identified. The assumption is that a new Coalition representative will be identified no later than March or April 2012. Julie Allison (DHS) is currently in her first term and eligible for a second term. Wendy will decide whether Julie is selected for a second term or if there will be a new representative for the DHS position for the July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 term. There is currently a vacancy for a DHS representative for the term ending June 30, 2014 which will either remain vacant or selected by Wendy.

The Iowa CWPC Strategic Plan was approved in January 2012 and posted to the CWPC website. In reviewing the plan, there are two objectives with activities/tasks due in March 2012.

The first objective is identifying and using existing structures in each service area to engage in regularly scheduled proactive partnership discussions. The activity in this objective due by

March 1, 2012 is the development of indicators of good partnership which was assigned to Brian, Mindy, and Nola. A draft document was provided to the CWPC for review and comment with the following identified as themes:

1. Transparent Communication
2. Commitment to Partnership
3. Professional Relationships

Indicators listed under each of these themes will be used to measure how we establish and maintain a strong public/private partnership.

The second objective is promoting DHS/Contractor/Court collaboration on use of data and information. The activities in this objective due by March 31, 2012 include creating recommendations for use of DHS and Contactor data and information, developing questions that can be used for review of that data and information, and developing a communication plan for distribution of the questions which was assigned to Gary and Cheryl. Gary and Cheryl reported that they have met and are working on developing a plan that will be shared with this group for review/comment. The next meeting of their group is scheduled for February 28th.

Wendy provided a brief legislative update as well as an update on the CFSR PIP.

Work Group Updates: (The following updates were provided by each of the co-chairs in attendance) - As of this meeting date, the active workgroups are as follows:

Performance Based Contracting –No update provided.

Family Interaction/Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) – The structure of this subcommittee remains as a workgroup under the CWPC: however, there is a smaller group of members that are working specifically on the CFSR PIP action steps. There is representation across the state on this smaller committee, including two Parent Partner representatives. This workgroup has been diligently working on benchmarks identified within the PIP and has submitted evidence of completion documents timely to the DHS Service Business Team (SBT) as required. The group has a meeting scheduled for Monday, February 13th in which the FTDM standards/ handbook draft will be finalized. The plan is to provide this document to a larger audience for review and comments prior to submission to SBT by February 29th which will include members of this committee. Each representative in this committee is encouraged to share the document for review, but any comments should be grouped together if possible prior to sending in to Mindy.

Training – The last meeting was held on January 23rd with the next one scheduled for February 20th. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the identified objectives are being met within the annual plan. A few of the key objectives include increasing joint attendance to the supervisory seminars/webinars and providing additional support/training to maximize dialog and shared learning; support rollout of the Blueprint; and all CFSR PIP related training activities as assigned.

All other workgroups have completed assigned duties identified in each respective charter.

Next steps:

1. The “Journey of Partnership” will be an ongoing agenda item for this committee. The point of contact will be the CWPC and anyone who wishes to contribute to the journey by adding comments or sharing a story, should submit their request to Mindy. The requests will then be provided to the CWPC for a decision. Amy Juhnke has agreed to continue in her role in this process.
2. The next topic for the Journey of Partnership is the process around the development of the Strategic Plan. Gary and Cheryl will be interviewed for this topic.
 - a. Gary and Cheryl have made contact with Amy Juhnke to schedule time for the interview process.
3. Brian, Mindy, and Nola will review and discuss the comments provided from the group on the indicators for good partnership and will submit a final draft to the CWPC for further review and approval.
4. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 8th, 2012.
5. An alternative date of April 5th was identified replacing the April 12th face to face meeting date for the ROM presentation. This date is dependent upon Carol’s availability as she will be the facilitator of the presentation.
 - a. Carol confirmed that she is available April 5th and will facilitate the presentation.
 - b. Online calendar invites will be updated to reflect the new date.

Our Vision:

The combined experience and perspective of public and private agencies provide the best opportunity to reach our mutual goals: child safety, permanency, and well-being for Iowa’s children and families. Collaboration and shared accountability will keep the focus on child welfare outcomes.